Large scale power cuts in U.P.

†3286. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large scale power cuts are resorted to in Uttar Pradesh and it is being provided to the farmers only for 4 to 6 hours;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the power cuts are resorted to without intimating the people;

(d) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(e) the measures being taken by Government to streamline the power transmission in Uttar Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) Supply and distribution of electricity within the State is primarily the responsibility of the State Government concerned. Power supply to various categories of consumers including agriculture sector is decided by the State Government depending upon the overall availability of power in the State. According to Uttar Pradesh Power Corporation Ltd. (UPPCL), U.P. has been restricting its drawal from the Central sector generating stations to the extent of its paying capability. During April, 2002 (upto 19th), the average availability of power to the rural areas was about 8 hours per day. Uttar Pradesh suffered energy shortage of around 19 per cent during the 1st fortnight of April, 2002.

(c) and (d) According to UPPCL, the load shedding schedule has been given wide circulation through District Officers and their Divisional Officers.

(e) If the paying capability of Uttar Pradesh Power Corporation Ltd. is improved, U.P. will be able to draw additional power from Central sector generating stations as per their entitlement which would improve the overall power supply position in the State.

150 MW plant of NTPC/ONGC in West Bengal

3287. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that NTPC and ONGC propose to install a 150 MW plant in West Bengal;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.